Get Ready for Your Hearing (For Protected Person)

Be prepared.

- Bring documents that support your case (police or medical reports, rental agreements or receipts, photos, bills, etc.).
- You can bring a friend or relative, but that person must not talk for you in court.
- If you think the restrained person will lie, bring a witness. The judge may not have time to talk to the witness. But you can bring a written statement of what the witness saw or heard. You must file and serve witness statements at the same time as you file DV-100 and DV-110.
- Do not bring your children.

Don't miss your hearing!

If you miss it, you will have to start from the beginning.

Get there 30 minutes early.

- Find the courtroom.
- When the courtroom opens, go in and tell the clerk or officer that you are present.
- If you are afraid of the restrained person, tell the officer.
- Watch the other cases so you will know what to do.
- When your name is called, go to the front of the courtroom.
- Your hearing may last just a few minutes, or up to an hour.

What if I don't speak English?

When you file your papers, tell the clerk you will need an interpreter. If the court interpreter is not available, bring someone to interpret for you. Do not ask a child to interpret for you.

What if I am deaf?

If you are deaf, contact the clerk at least 1 week before the hearing. Ask for an interpreter or other accommodation.

Practice what you want to say.

Make a list of the orders you want and practice saying them. Don't take more than 3 minutes to say what you want.

If you get nervous at the hearing, just read from your list. Use that list to see if the judge has made every order you asked for.

The judge may ask questions.

- Tell the truth. Speak slowly. You can read from your list.
- The restrained person or his or her lawyer may also ask you questions.
- Do not interrupt the judge or the restrained person.
- Give complete answers.
- If you don't understand, say "I don't understand."
- If the restrained person lies in court, wait until he or she finishes talking. Then tell the judge.
- Speak only to the judge unless it is your turn to ask questions.
- When other people are talking, wait for them to finish. Then you can ask them questions about what they said.

The judge will decide.

- At the end of the hearing, the judge will say what the orders are.
- Make sure your Form DV-130 says what the judge has ordered. Sometimes the clerk fills out the form for you. If not, fill it out yourself. If you filled it out before the hearing, you may have to make changes.
- Review it and make sure you understand. If anything is wrong or missing, tell the clerk right away.
- If the judge makes the orders, the judge will sign your DV-130. Take it to the clerk to file it. The clerk will give you 5 copies.

The judge may "continue" your case.

This means you have to come back another day. The judge can do this if:

- Your hearing is taking longer than planned
- The judge wants more information
- The restrained person needs time to get a lawyer or prepare an answer

If your case is continued...

- Fill out DV-125. Check and fill out **②c** on that form.
- The judge will sign the form and give you a new hearing date.
- Take it to the clerk, file it, and ask for 5 copies.
- Now your orders will last until the new hearing date.
- Take a filed copy of DV-125 to your local police.
- Bring all your papers back to court at the next hearing.

What about child custody or visitation?

- If you need child custody or visitation orders, the judge will send you to mediation. Mediation helps parents agree on a plan for custody and visitation that is best for the children.
- If you are sent to mediation, ask the judge to make your restraining, custody, and visitation orders last until the next hearing.
- Either parent can ask to meet with the mediator separately. You can bring a support person with you to mediation.

What happens after the hearing?

- If the judge makes the orders, go to the clerk and file DV-130.
- Take a copy of DV-130 to your local police.
- If the restrained person was at the hearing, you can have him or her served a copy of DV-130 by mail. Ask the server to complete Form DV-250 and give it to you.
- If the restrained person was not at the hearing, but the judge's orders are the *same* as the temporary order, you can have him or her served with a copy of DV-130 by mail. Ask the server to complete Form DV-250 and give it to you.
- If the restrained person was not at the hearing, and the judge's orders are *different* from the temporary order, you must have someone serve DV-130 in person, not by mail. Ask the server to complete Form DV-200 and give it to you.

Remember, you cannot serve the orders yourself.

Take your Proof of Service (DV-200 or DV-250) to the clerk and file it. Keep a copy.

